

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Dorset Council has started a Community Governance Review to enable adjustments of Parish Boundaries. The consultation has started and runs to the 28 October 2021 and residents can take part.

Holt Parish Council has to prepare its input to this review and, as can be seen below, it would like to have all of our area within its parish. This has been an aim of many of our residents for several years in order to try to protect our area from development in the Green Belt.

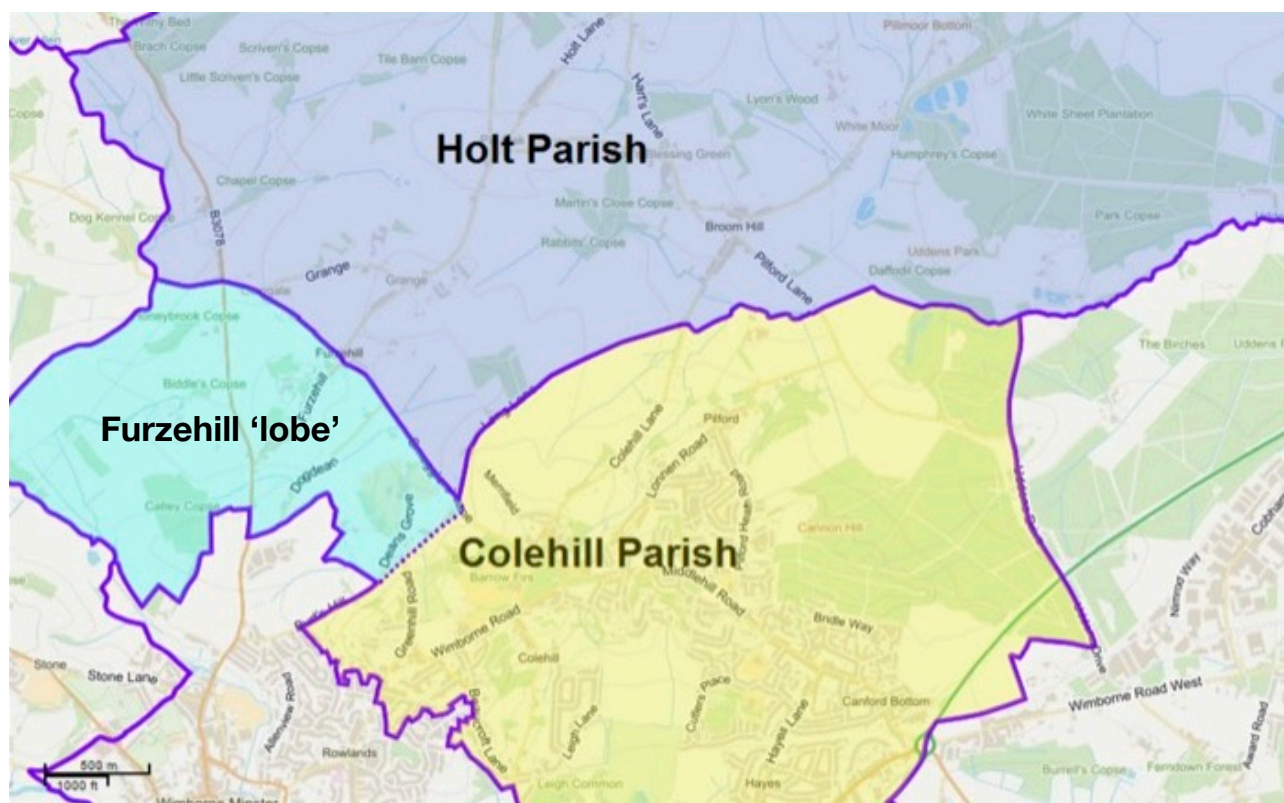
The Minutes of the Holt Parish Council meeting held on 28 July 2021 include:

Community Governance Review

Members considered the residents request during the Public Open Session and it was resolved unanimously to agree with the principle of extending the Holt Parish boundary to incorporate the part of Furzehill currently in Colehill Parish to protect against the future expansion of Wimborne into the Green Belt.

Residents of Furzehill will be asked to send their views on this to the Clerk.

It would like to know the views of all residents of the **lobe** of land in question, [coloured light blue in the map below](#), as well as residents who are already in Holt Parish (ie NE of a line down the centre of Grange and Smugglers Lane as far as Long Lane; and NW of a line down the centre of Long Lane (northern section).



It should be debating the subject again on the 8 September, so please make your observations to the clerk of Holt Parish Council as soon as possible at:

clerk@holtparishcouncil.org.uk.

This is an opportunity for our residents to say how they wish to be governed.

Please make clear:

- a. whether you are currently a resident of the Lobe or Holt Parish
- b. if living in the Lobe, whether you wish to become a resident of Holt Parish; or
if living in Holt Parish, whether you support the addition of the Lobe to Holt Parish
- c. any other view you have relating to this matter.

Some clarifications:

The definition of “the part of Furzehill currently in Colehill Parish” (the Lobe):

The lobe of land as shown in the map which contains the red A's. The lobe is only attached by the short length of road (shown in red) to the main part of Colehill Parish, namely a short section of Burts Hill and the southerly section of Long Lane.

The current boundary with Holt Parish is much longer. It runs along Smugglers Lane then down Grange to the Cranborne Road and then on to Fitch's Bridge.

The river Allen forms the boundary with Pamphill Parish.

The remainder of the boundary of the lobe is with Wimborne Town.

As this is a proposal the precise line that would be used to detach the lobe could be different.

If residents are of the opinion that the lobe should be detached from Colehill in a different place then please mention that when replying to the clerk of Holt Parish Council.

'Warding' complicates the situation a little. Some details are discussed on the next page for those who are interested. However, warding does not need to be tackled until the main question is decided:

do those Furzehill residents currently in Colehill Parish wish to become part of Holt Parish?

WARDING

Three possible arrangements are described.

A

Currently the boundary between Holt Parish and Colehill Parish defined above, is also a Parliamentary Constituency boundary as well as a Dorset Ward Boundary. Whilst either of those boundaries remains in place the lobe would have to be a separate ward (possibly called Holt Furzehill) with probably 2 councillors for Holt Parish being elected by the residents of that ward and 9 (perhaps 8) councillors for the current area of Holt Parish.

B

The Boundary Commission for England has proposed that the Dorset Ward of Stour and Allen Vale, which includes Holt Parish, should also be in the Mid Dorset and Poole North Constituency along with the Dorset Ward of Colehill, which corresponds to Colehill Parish. This means that one of the dominant boundaries may disappear. In which case a small adjustment to the Dorset Ward Boundary could enable Holt Furzehill ward to be increased by about 50 dwellings to include those of our residents who are already in the Holt Parish, as defined above.

This may result in 2 councillors for Holt Furzehill and only 6 for the rest of the Holt area.

It would also mean that the Stour and Allen Vale Ward would have slightly less electors (it currently has above the average number). Whilst the Colehill Ward would have a few more (it currently is just below the average). These improvements in Dorset Ward variances would not affect the Parliamentary Constituency as both Wards are in the same proposed Constituency.

C

Provided the proposed Parliamentary Constituency still has both the Stour and Allen Vale Ward and the Colehill Ward of Dorset Council, then of course it might be possible to push the Dorset Ward Boundary so that the lobe moves into the Stour and Allen Vale Ward.

The big benefit is that Holt Parish would become just one ward and that would simplify things. The number of councillors would not be determined by ensuring the variance was within acceptable limits and the electoral process would be simplified. However, the variance of the Stour and Allen Vale Ward would be made significantly worse and the Colehill Ward worse, but still within normal limits. Fortunately, there would be no impact on the proposed Parliamentary Constituency.

So, in summary:

A - needs warding within Holt Parish, but is dependent on neither the Parliamentary Commission for England, nor the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

B - will need warding within Holt Parish but it may be more acceptable to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

C - is simplest for Holt Parish as no warding is needed. But it requires: a Parliamentary Commission for England review of Parliamentary Constituencies to confirm its proposals, and also agreement from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to a significant increase in variance of a Dorset Ward.